

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KINSHA 01073 051535Z

51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 SCA-01 SCS-03 SSO-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 INRE-00 /040 W  
----- 037458

O R 051458Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1197

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCON BUKAVU

AMCON LUBUMBASHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 1073

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG, PINT

SUBJ: CHURCH-STATE: MOBUTU'S FEBRUARY 1 SPEECH

REF: A. STATE 025112 B. KINSHASA 984 C. KINSHASA 769

1. IN FEBRUARY 1 SPEECH MOBUTU THREATENED CLOSURE ONLY  
THOSE CHURCHES WHERE POLITICS DISCUSSED OR TRACTS DISTRI-  
BUTED (REF B). WARNING AIMED SQUARELY AT CATHOLICS, AND  
SPECIFICALLY AT BISHOPS' JANUARY 15-16 STATEMENTS (REF C).  
IN CLEAR MOVE TO ISOLATE BISHOPS FURTHER, MOBUTU DREW

FAVORABLE CONTRAST BETWEEN BEHAVIOR PROTESTANT/KIMBANGUIST  
PASTORS AND THAT OF ROMAN CATHOLIC CLERGY. IN FACT,  
INDIVIDUAL PROTESTANT CHURCHMEN (MISSIONARIES IN PARTICULAR)  
HAVE BEEN MORE DISCREET THAN CATHOLICS IN VOICING  
CRITICISM, ALTHOUGH THEY TOO ARE GREATLY CONCERNED  
REGARDING MOTIVES UNDERLYING RECENT RADICALIZATION  
MEASURES. THEY HAVE TAKEN SOME COMFORT FROM FACT  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KINSHA 01073 051535Z

THAT MOBUTU HAS REPEATEDLY SAID THAT RELIGION IN ZAIRE

IS MATTER FOR FREE INDIVIDUAL CHOICE, THAT CHURCHES ENJOY FREEDOM NECESSARY TO DO THEIR PROPER WORK (PREACH GOSPEL), BUT THAT THEY MUST STAY CLEAR OF POLITICS.

2. ONLY MISSIONARY ACTIVITY PRESENTLY AFFECTED BY NEW RADICALIZATION MEASURES IS EDUCATION. MOST MISSIONARIES ACCEPT NATIONALIZATION OF SCHOOLS IN PRINCIPLE, ALTHOUGH THEY SEE SOME PROBLEMS REGARDING PROPERTIES FINANCED IN WHOLE OR PART WITH CHURCH/MISSION FUNDS. MOST PASTORS SEEM TO PREFER TO STRICK STRICTLY TO EVANGELIZATION - WHICH THEY THEMSELVES REGARD AS THEIR PROPER WORK - AND DO NOT SEE MAJOR OBSTACLE IN CARRYING ON AWAY FROM SCHOOL. SOME FEAR, HOWEVER, THAT BAN ON RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION INSCHOOLS, GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF NURSERY SCHOOLS, AND PROHIBITION AGAINST ANY FORM OF INDOCTRINATION OTHER THAN MOBUTISM FORESHADOW EFFORT TO EQUATE CHRISTIANITY WITH "MENTAL ALIENATION", BODING ILL FOR FUTURE OF MISSIONARY WORK IN ZAIRE. THIS APPREHENSION IS UNDERSTANDABLE, PARTICULARLY AS CONCERNS LONG TERM; BUT FOR MOMENT EMBASSY SEES NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR CHURCHES WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH GOVERNMENT AND AVOID ANY ACTIVITY WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS CRITICAL OF MOBUTU OR THE MPR.

3. WE HAVE NO FIRM INDICATION AS YET THAT GOZ PLANS TAKEOVER OF MISSIONARY HOSPITALS OR CLINICS, BUT THIS MAY BE IN THE CARDS. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH SCHEME NOW UNDER STUDY. OUR CONTACTS WITH OFFICIALS CONCERNED IN THAT PROJECT LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT GOZ IS WELL AWARE OF IMPORTANCE OF ASSURING PROPER STAFFING OF ITS PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS. ADMITTEDLY, THIS IS NOT MUCH REASSURANCE FOR FREE METHODIST CHURCHES. WE CAN SAY, HOWEVER, THAT, BASED ON BOBUTU'S PAST DEMONSTRATIONS OF GOODWILL TOWARDS MISSIONARY MEDICAL PROGRAMS, OUR BEST GUESS IS THAT HUMANITARIAN INVESTMENT IN NUNDU HOSPITAL PROJECT WOULD NOT BE MONEY WASTED.  
HINTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPEECHES, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975KINSHA01073  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750042-0125  
**From:** KINSHASA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750271/aaaacloz.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 025112, 75 KINSHASA 984, 75 KINSHASA 769  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CHURCH-STATE: MOBUTU'S FEBRUARY 1 SPEECH  
**TAGS:** PGOV, CG, (MOBUTU, JOSEPH)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006